



Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force **Meeting minutes** **September 25, 2008**

Summary

Methamphetamine Task Force Members Present (12):

Dr. Kim O'Connor for Honorable Barbara LaWall (Pima County Attorney, Chair)
Aimee Amado (Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T., Arizona Department of Economic Security)
Anthony Coulson (Assistant Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration)
Billie Grobe (Chief Probation Officer, Yavapai County)
Brant Benham (Narcotics and Organized Crime Bureau, Arizona Department of Public Safety)
Carol Chicharello (AHCCCS, Tribal Relations Liaison)
Dean Wright (Compliance Officer, Arizona State Board of Pharmacy)
John Dempsey (Chief Administrator, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)
Kathy Karam (Program Manager, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)
Rich Rosky (HIDTA Coordinator, NMCI Southwest Meth Initiative)
Steve Tyrrell (Program Manager, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts)
Tracy Hastings (Lead Substance Abuse Clinical Advisor, Arizona Department of Health Services)

Members Absent (11):

Jane Irvine (Director, Community Outreach and Education, Arizona Attorney General's Office)
Don Sherrard for Commander Mike Parra (Phoenix Police Department)
Don Stapley (County Supervisor, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors)
Hope McDonald Lonetree (Councilwoman, 20th Navajo Nation Council)
Kathy Rice (Prevention Education Specialist, Arizona Department of Education)
Pat Benchik (Executive Director, COPE Behavioral Services)
Terry Rozema (Commander, Pima County/Tucson Metropolitan Counter Narcotics Alliance)
Sylvia Homer (Colorado River Indian Tribe Methamphetamine Coalition)
Scott Cocuzza (Business and Community Member)
Steve Schieman (Investigations Officer, Target Corporation)
Warren Koontz (Inter Tribal Council)

Public members (8):

Bob Mirel (Altarum)
Bob Irish (Board of Technical Registration)
Harriet Lindsey (Altarum)
Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF- Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Jennie Lagunas (DHS/DBHS)
Jim Copple (SAI)
Keri Raichert (GOCYF-Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Morgan Hester (GOCYF- Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Tonya Hamilton (GOCYF- Division for Substance Abuse Policy)

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Kim O'Connor called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. O'Connor welcomed members and asked the group to introduce themselves.

RELEASE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. O'Connor mentioned that the Annual Report is now available on the GOCYF website and reports all of the outcomes from the previous year. This first year showed many progress outcomes, and in the next year we would like to show more outcomes and benchmarks.

APPROVAL OF 6-25-08 MINUTES

Dr. O'Connor called members attention to the minutes. Mr. Anthony Coulson motioned to approve the minutes, and Dean Wright seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objections.

Dr. O'Connor reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

UPDATES

- Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership

Ms. Morgan Hester provided an update on the activities of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP), noting achievements in the four strategic focus areas, and noted that ASAP had chosen four new strategic focus areas for 2009: Underage Drinking, Prescription Drugs, DEC and Marketing/Media Campaigns.

- Drug Trends / Meth Lab Workgroup

Mr. Anthony Coulson provided a presentation updating the group on drug threats and trends. He reviewed the latest HIDTA drug seizure maps, noting that drug trafficking organizations (DTO's) still focus on getting to the highways. He noted the overwhelming amount of marijuana coming up Corridor Six (Nogales). In 2008 they are seeing an increase in movement in the Yuma area. There has been a decrease in meth and cocaine, but a 60% increase in heroin. He noted that treatment partners should be made aware that there is an influx in the state and they should be prepared. Mr. Coulson mentioned that due to conflicts between the DTO's there is a stockpile of marijuana and other drugs waiting on the Mexico side of the border and there will be a deluge once the conflict is resolved. He noted 416 pounds of meth had been seized in 2008, and of that 180 pounds were from two seizures by DEA. It is possible that the meth being found in Arizona is

meant for transit, not for use in the state. There is a definite impact on meth seizures, and prices have increased tremendously, doubling over the past year. DEA is seeing an increase in meth coming from Las Vegas, Nevada, and notes this as an emerging threat. DEA has not been able to buy meth in Greenlee, Graham and Cochise counties, and users are now traveling to Tucson to make buys.

Lab seizures continue to go down, with 17 seizures, though Mr. Richard Rosky noted that one house with two labs was busted last week. Mr. Coulson noted that a statewide pseudo-tracking system needs to be standard and implemented, as some counties are hit or miss in tracking. Mr. Coulson noted that heroin is a great threat and continues to be on the rise. Mr. Dean Wright asked why this is occurring, and Mr. Coulson responded that they need to look into it. Mr. Rosky noted that there may be a correlation between Oxycontin/Oxycodone use and heroin, and suggested looking at numbers on both. Mr. Coulson noted the need to continue to drive meth down while calling attention to the heroin trend. Arizona is the primary point of entry for heroin into the U.S. Southwest Border. Mr. Coulson explained that black tar heroin is a gum that hasn't been processed and isn't as pure as white heroin, which is a more marketable, cleaner version. The white powder heroin is a concern because they aren't sure where they are coming from (Colombia or Asia), so all samples are going to the DEA lab to determine source.

Dr. O'Connor noted the importance of continuing to watch meth lab seizures, as they are close to approaching 2007 numbers.

- Data Trends

Ms. Jeanne Blackburn provided a presentation on data trends, presenting new 2008 Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) data. The data will be publicly available in a few weeks. Ms. Blackburn noted that Mr. Philip Stevenson of Arizona Criminal Justice Commission had compiled this data and if there are any questions on the data Mr. Stevenson would be happy to answer them. Ms. Blackburn noted that the 2008 Epidemiology Snapshot will be completed in November. This updated document will look specifically at underage drinking, meth, prescription drugs and inhalants.

Ms. Blackburn reviewed AYS data on lifetime and past 30-day use of substances among 8th, 10th and 12th graders. All substances have declined since 2006, except prescription drugs (Ms. Blackburn noted that the question was asked more specifically by drug type in the 2008 survey). She showed a graph of lifetime meth use, which said that 2.2% of youth responding to the survey responded to lifetime meth use. In some counties, one in four youth are reporting lifetime prescription drug use. Ms. Blackburn noted that four counties showed an increase in lifetime inhalant use, and noted the importance of working with DEA and others to drill down why certain counties are having increases of use. A lower percentage of males than females reported lifetime meth use.

Mr. Jim Copple noted the importance of the 50 percent reduction in lifetime meth use since the 2006 survey, and that this is good news, and though it can't be attributed to any

single cause, the comprehensive state planning may have had an impact. He noted the difficulty of coordinating a statewide meth strategy in Nevada, though they are a part of the Eight State Meth Initiative. Mr. Coulson noted the Mohave and La Paz Counties were the counties receiving meth from Las Vegas. Ms. Blackburn noted that putting AYS data side by side with seizure data will give a clearer picture of what is happening in the state. Mr. Coulson noted that it was troubling that the highest usage is in the out counties, and that these counties must not be receiving the appropriate services. Mr. Copple noted that many of the outcomes of the Task Force and ASAP have been structural and process oriented and pointing to places where we need to focus. Once the AYS data has been publicly released GOCYF-DSAP will send that information to Task Force members to share with coalitions and others.

DISCUSSION ON LANGUAGE CHANGES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Copple walked through the language changes to be sure that language changes based upon input from the last meeting were accurately captured and that nothing was missed, and that the appropriate agencies are identified for implementation. In terms of reporting outcomes on the action steps it will become quarterly, as long as outcomes are being reported, as the Governor will be expecting them. Mr. Copple thanked the Task Force for their diligence and great work. He noted that we must remain diligent in addressing meth even if numbers decrease, because it never truly goes away.

Mr. Copple called attention to the Priority Recommendations document and Revised Recommendations document.

Recommendation #1: Mr. Copple noted that although Dr. O'Connor is the single state point of contact for substance abuse, she is not reporting directly to the Governor. He noted that there is not yet any state with a Cabinet level Office of Drug Control Policy, and that this position needs to be moved to that level. Arizona could lead the country in this area. The central clearinghouse is also still an action step that is in progress. Ms. Billie Grobe noted that there is a need to evaluate and build capacity in rural areas and implement evidence-based practices (technical assistance and evaluation). Mr. Rosky mentioned that New Mexico has a Cabinet-level Drug Czar, and Mr. Copple responded that six states have Drug Czars, but they don't have final sign-off on budget approval. Mr. Copple noted that Arizona has been moving incrementally in this direction.

Recommendation #2: The action steps have been broadened to look at how agencies can bridge schools and communities. The Task Force would submit to Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) a budget request for a coordinated and braided funding strategy for prevention specialists in schools and communities. Dr. O'Connor noted that since ASAP has established the Project Investment Justification process this request should go through them. Mr. Coulson noted that school resource officers should be included with responsible agencies. The Task Force will need to determine the funding streams for school resource officers. Ms. Karam noted that school resource officers have taken a hit with budget cuts.

Recommendation #3: The recommendation is the same as in 2007. As ASAP has taken on media campaigns as a Strategic Focus Area the agency responsible will be the GOCYF-Division for Substance Abuse Policy. Mr. Copple noted the importance of figuring out what works and what doesn't, as Arizona has several media campaigns that operate in silos and need to be coordinated. Findings should be elevated to ASAP. It will be important to partner with the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Mr. Rosky noted that there has never been a meeting between all of the campaigns to talk about targeting campaigns in rural areas and evidenced based practices. Ms. Grobe said that when you bring the campaign representatives together it is important to recognize community and cultural differences, because each community knows their area best. Mr. Rosky noted that the Crystal Darkness Task Force is still meeting, and should be brought in with the other partners.

Recommendation #4: Action steps have been added. Dr. O'Connor mentioned that for Action Step C DES and DHS should be included. Dr. O'Connor asked if the Task Force felt it would be beneficial to bring coalitions to the meetings to report on their activities. Ms. Briana Kreibich mentioned the Coalition Forum in October and that all coalitions will be reporting out on outcomes, and the possibility of putting their outcomes and contacts together on one form.

Recommendation #5: This recommendation focuses on structural issues and challenges of coordination between agencies. Mr. Steve Tyrell was concerned over the evaluation component, noting that it can be difficult for agencies to incorporate that into their work, and would like to soften that language. He asked that Action Step C be changed to reflect an expansion of services, rather than an expansion of funding given the tight budget environment. Mr. Copple agreed, as evaluation implies that there are outcomes being tracked. Ms. Tracey Hastings suggested "enhance and monitor." Ms. Aimee Amado noted that DES, DHS and the courts are in the process of applying for in depth technical assistance for coordination on provision of treatment for families involved with CPS. Mr. John Dempsey noted that Action Steps A and B may indicate that a sub-committee to the Task Force should be formed to formalize these steps. Mr. Copple noted that his has been a positive step for ASAP and is a good suggestion. Mr. Dempsey suggested that GOCYF-DSAP could form this group and coordinate it. Mr. Tyrell suggested rolling Action Step B into Action Step A due to resource constraints. Mr. Copple said the group should keep the function of Action Step B, and collapse it as part of Action Step A, including the Quarterly Report.

Recommendation #6: This is an ongoing activity. Mr. Dempsey asked whether this Recommendation could be collapsed with Recommendation 5 as the same group and stakeholders will be meeting to discuss the issues and could include all of the steps in the Quarterly meetings and reports. This was agreed by the group. Mr. Tyrell asked Ms. Grobe who would create alternatives to incarceration, and she responded that there is much that can be done within the counties. Dr. Kim O'Connor mentioned potential legislation on this issue. Ms. Carol Chicharello suggested that AHCCCS could play a

role in this recommendation, especially in terms of reentry, and should be added as a responsible agency.

Recommendation #7: The Action Steps in this recommendation have been changed. Mr. Copple noted that much has been done in this area. Mr. Brant Benham asked why Department of Homeland Security should be included as a responsible agency. Mr. Copple said that historically they had been a part of fusion centers (ACTIC). Dr. O'Connor suggested that when workgroups meet they may determine that Homeland Security may not be needed at the table. They are a pass through agency for federal funding, and Mr. Copple noted that in some states they have been able to provide valuable information. Mr. Rosky noted that Homeland Security can be a valued resource. The group agreed to extend an invitation to Homeland Security.

Recommendation #8: AARIN remains an Action Step, though with the budget it may continue to be difficult. The additional Action Steps were designed to work on the smurfing issue. Mr. Dempsey asked who would move the legislative issue, and Mr. Copple and Dr. O'Connor responded that that language would go to ASAP, but that the deadline for this session had passed. It was mentioned that ASU (for AARIN) and ACJC should be added as responsible agencies.

Recommendation #9: The national DEC alliance conference in Utah will be held next month, and Arizona will be recommended. Ms. Hastings asked what the role of DBHS would be in this issue, and Mr. Copple responded that training would be important for those in the agency that are interfacing with this population, and making sure that resources are available. Mr. Copple also mentioned potential enhancements to the protocols to respond to the medical needs of the child. ASAP was added as a responsible agency.

Recommendation #10: Mr. Rosky noted that there has been a small increase in small domestic labs. Ms. Kreibich noted that members have met with the Board of Technical Registration and have formed a subcommittee on the issue. They will work with the Board to develop additional language.

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE REPORTING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Monthly reporting will end, but they will be Quarterly, and a piece of this will be asking for a report out on collaboration with agencies (have they met, what were the outcomes). If good progress is not being reported it may be necessary to revamp with a more vigilant reporting system.

Workgroups will be established around the recommendations, and GOCYF-DSAP will coordinate. Quarterly meetings will be used to go through the Action Steps.

COALITION UPDATE

Ms. Kreibich provided an update on the coalitions. 15 Anti-Meth coalitions are in place, and they are looking to bring on two tribal coalitions in January. Ms. Kreibich has conducted site visits with all 15 coalitions. Overall benchmarks for the coalitions have been established, one of which is to show a reduction in meth use, and assistance will be provided for them on utilizing and collecting data. Resources for the coalitions will be provided at the Coalition Forum in October. Coalition members will be added to the Task Force.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting date will be in mid-November, and a date is being determined with the Chair.

CALL TO PUBLIC

There were no responses.

ADJOURN

Dr. Kim O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 12:05pm.